

Attorney Docket No. 251265US2RD DIV  
Inventor: Masayuki ISHIKAWA et al  
Preliminary Amendment filed: April 5, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

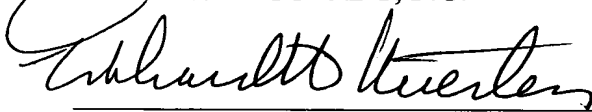
Favorable consideration of this continuation patent application in light of the foregoing Amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-25 are presently active, Claims 18-20 and 22-25 amended and Claim 1-17 and 26-28 canceled by the present preliminary amendment.

Accordingly, examination on the merits is in order, and an early and favorable Office Action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 08/03)

I:\ATTY\EHK\AMEND-RESPONSES\0039\251265US-PREMT.DOC